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A NEW VARIETY OF *ERIOGONUM LEPTOPHYLLUM* (POLYGONACEAE) FROM EASTERN ARIZONA

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ABSTRACT

Eriogonum leptophyllum var. **vallis-rubrum** Reveal & Clifford, **var. nov.**, is proposed for a low prostrate to spreading subshrub no more than 1.5 dm tall confined to Red Valley, Apache County, Arizona.

One expression of *Eriogonum* not accounted for in the just published *Flora of the Four Corners Region* (Heil et al. 2013) was a low, prostrate to sprawling subshrub that is clearly allied to the much large and distinctly shrubby *E. leptophyllum* (Torr.) Wooton & Standl. (Polygonaceae Juss.; Eriogoneae Dumort.) found throughout much of the Four Corners region of Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, and Utah.

Eriogonum leptophyllum (Torr.) Wooton & Standl. var. **vallis-rubrum** Reveal & A. Clifford, **var. nov. TYPE. USA. Arizona.** Apache Co.: Along a dirt road 1.3 mi SW of IR 12, E of Black Lake, at the head of Red Valley, 1.9 air mi SW of White Bridge, New Mexico, and 34.5 air mi NE of Ganado, associated with scattered *Atriplex*, 7240 ft elevation, 36°0131.2″N, 109°03′49.0″W, T4N, R5W, sec. 31NWSE, 21 Sep 2013, *J.L. Reveal, A. Clifford, & K.D. Heil 9020* (holotype: NY; isotypes: ARIZ, ASU, BH, BRY, CAS, GH, MO, RSA, SJNM, US, UTC). Figures 1–2.

Distinguished from var. *leptophyllum* (Fig. 3) by its prostrate to sprawling subshrubby habit and shorter leaves.

Plants subshrubs, prostrate to spreading, 0.4–1.3 (1.5) dm tall, 0.5–3 dm across; ***leaf blades*** linear to linear-oblanceolate, 0.5–2.5 cm long, 0.1–0.2 cm wide, densely white-tomentose abaxially, essentially glabrous and green adaxially, margins tightly revolute; ***aerial flowering stems*** sprawling to somewhat erect, 2–8 (12) cm long, green, finely papillate above the leaves; ***inflorescences*** compact cymose, 1–5 cm wide, the branches dichotomous, glabrous, papillate, the bracts 3, scalelike, triangular, (0.5) 1–4 mm long; ***peduncles*** absent or erect, 0.05–0.1 cm long, glabrous; ***involucres*** 1 per node, narrowly turbinate, 2–4 mm long, 1–2 mm wide, glabrous, the teeth 5, erect, 0.3–0.7 mm long; ***flowers*** 2.5–4 mm long, the perianth white, glabrous, the hypanthium ¼ length of perianth, essentially monomorphic, oblong to narrowly obovate, the stamens exserted, (2) 3–5 mm long, the filaments sparsely puberulent proximally; ***achenes*** brown, 2.5–3.5 mm long, glabrous..

Flowering Aug-Oct. Clayey flats and slopes, sagebrush communities; 2150–2200 m; Red Valley, Apache Co., Arizona.

Figure 1. Habit of *Eriogonum leptophyllum* var. *vallis-rubrum*.

Figure 2. Detail of the habit of *Eriogonum leptophyllum* var. *vallis-rubrum*.

Figure 3. Habit of *Eriogonum leptophyllum* var. *leptophyllum.*

The var. *leptophyllum* is a distinct shrub mostly 4–8 (13) dm tall and 5–15 (18) dm across with leaves generally 2–6 cm long. The variety is found on clayey flats, slopes, and outcrops in mixed grassland and sagebrush communities as well as pinyon-juniper woodlands at elevations that range from 1500–2300 m. It is found in Garfield and San Juan Co., Utah, and adjacent Montezuma Co., Colorado, south into eastern Coconino, Navajo, and Apache cos., Arizona, and in Bernalillo, Cibola, McKinley, Rio Arriba, Sandoval, San Juan, Santa Fe, Taos and Valencia cos. of northwestern New Mexico.

At present the var. *vallis-rubrum* is known only from Red Valley where it is locally common.

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